

REMARKS

Claims 1-32, 34, and 60-65 were pending in this application when the present Office Action was mailed (November 29, 2007). Claims 1-8, 18, 25-32, and 34 have been withdrawn from consideration in response to a prior Restriction Requirement. In this response, claims 9, 17, 21, 60, and 61 have been amended, and claims 18 and 62-64 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-17, 19-32, 34, 60, 61, and 65 are currently pending, with claims 1-8, 25-32, and 34 withdrawn from consideration.

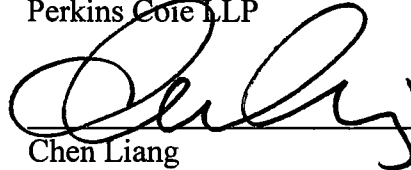
In the November 29, 2007 Office Action, claims 9-17, 19-24, and 60-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,608,371 to Kurashima et al. ("Kurashima"), U.S. patent No. 6,525,413 to Cloud et al. ("Cloud"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,114,221 to Tonti et al. ("Tonti"). Without commenting on or conceding the merits of the Examiner's position, claims 62-64 have been canceled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation, continuation-in-part, or other application. As a result, the Section 103 rejection of these claims is now moot. The following remarks address the Section 103 rejection of claims 9-17, 19-24, 60, 61, and 65.

Even though the applicants respectfully disagree with the merits of the Section 103 rejection of claims 9-17, 19-24, 60, 61, and 65, independent claims 9, 24, and 60 have been amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter, and dependent claims 17, 21, and 61 have been amended to conform with the amended independent claims. The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on April 21, 2008. During the telephone interview, the Examiner and the undersigned attorney discussed the claimed subject matter and the proposed claim amendments. The Examiner agreed that original claims 9-17, 19-24, 60, 61, and 65 with the foregoing amendments patentably distinguish over the applied references pending further review and additional search. As a result, the Section 103 rejection of claims 9-17, 19-24, 60, 61, and 65 should be withdrawn. The foregoing remarks summarize and reflect upon the points discussed during the April 21, 2008 telephone interview. The applicants accordingly request that this paper constitute the applicants' Interview Summary. If the Examiner notices any deficiencies in this regard, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The Applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Chen Liang at (206) 359-6038.

Respectfully submitted,

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